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ABSTRACT

An introduction to the Russian phonemic system leads to a model classification of verb forms derived from the infinitive and present stems of selected verbs. Correspondences between the two sets of verb forms are listed. A brief history of attempts at verb classification concentrates on the theory of Meyer, Berneker, and Bloomfield. A complete list of Russian irregular verbs is included.
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EDITED BY
BERNARD BLOCH
Yale University

ALBERT C. BAUGH
University of Pennsylvania

M. B. EMENEAU
University of California

ROBERT A. HALL JR.
Cornell University

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ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF RUSSIAN VERBS

WILLIAM S. CORNYN

YALE UNIVERSITY

The phonemes of Russian are as follows:

Consonants:

1. Plain and palatalized counterparts regardless of the following sound:

p pj b bj m mj f fj v vj

t tj d dj n nj s sj z zj

l lj r rj

2. Plain or palatalized depending on the following sound: k g x

3. Plain only:

c š ž

4. Palatalized only:

č šč y žj

Vowels (showing the occurrence of phonemes in various positions):

In stressed syllables:

Initial, unstressed:

Final, and pretonic after plain consonant except š ž:

Non-final after palatal consonant or š ž:

Non-final and non-pretonic after plain consonant except š ž:

STRESS also is phonemic: every word, pronounced in isolation, has a stress on one syllable. Russian verbs show three patterns of stress; we call them A, B, and C:

Stress pattern A: stress on the stem of the verb throughout the paradigm.

Stress pattern B: stress on the endings of the verb throughout the paradigm.

Stress pattern C: in the present tense, stress on the ending of the 1st sing. but on the stem in other forms; in gender forms, stress on the ending in the feminine, but on the stem in other forms.

The Russian verb has forms for the infinitive, the present tense, the past tense, the imperative, four verbal adjectives (participles), and two verbal adverbs (gerunds).

Each verb form consists of a stem and an ending. Each verb has two stems, a PRESENT STEM and an INFINITIVE STEM.

From the present stem are formed:¹

present tense

čítáy.u

'I read'

imperative

čítáy.

'Read!'

¹ In the illustrative examples, a dot separates the constituent parts of the verb form (prefix, stem, pre-desinential, final). The transcription used here is morphophonemic rather than phonemic; vowels are written in their 'full' form, but the actual phonemic value of such symbols as -e- and -o- in unstressed syllables can easily be inferred from the vowel table given above. Where a given verb is defective, the missing forms are supplied from a compound of the same verb.

present active participle (prap)	čítáy.ušč.oy	'one who is reading'
present gerund (prg)	čítáy.a	'while reading'
present passive participle (prpp)	čítáy.om.oy	'which is being read'

From the infinitive stem are formed:

infinitive	čítá.tj	'to read'
past tense	čítá.l	'he was reading'
past active participle (pap)	čítá.fš.oy	'one who has been reading'
past gerund (pg)	čítá.f, čítá.fši	'having been reading'
past passive participle (ppp)	pro.číta.n.oy	'which has been read (through)'

ENDINGS: PRESENT SYSTEM. Verb forms of the present system consist of the PRESENT STEM plus PREDESINENTIAL plus FINAL. There are two sets of predesinentials, giving two conjugations in the present.

	PREDESINENTIAL		FINAL	CONJUGATION	
	1	2		1	2
S1	-u-	-Ju- ²	-	njos.ú	govorj.ú ³
2	-qo- ⁴	-i-	-š	njosj.ó.š.	govorj.f.š
3	-qo-	-i-	-t	njosj.ó.t	govorj.f.t
P1	-qo-	-i-	-m	njosj.ó.m	govorj.f.m
2	-qo-	-i-	-tji	njosj.ó.tji	govorj.f.tji
3	-u-	-á-, -u- ⁵	-t	njos.ú.t	govorj.á.t
Imp S	-ji-	-ji-	-	njosj.f	govorj.f
Imp P	-ji-	-ji-	-tji	njosj.f.tji	govorj.f.tji
prap	-u-	-a-	-šč-	njos.ú.šč.oy	govorj.á.šč.iy
prg	-ja-	-ja-	-	njosj.á	govorj.á
prpp	-o-	-i-	-m-	njos.ó.m.oy	ljubj.f.m.oy

² The symbol J in this predesinential represents the following alternations:

- pj, bj, mj, fj, vj ~ plj, blj, mlj, flj, vlj: ljubj.ú ~ ljúbj.i.t 'I love' ~ 'he loves'
 dj, zj ~ ž: vož.ú ~ vódj.i.t 'I lead' ~ 'he leads'
 sj ~ š: proš.ú ~ prósj.i.t 'I ask' ~ 'he asks'
 tj ~ č: vjinč.ú ~ vjintj.f.t 'I screw' ~ 'he screws'
 stj ~ šč: čišč.u ~ čistj.i.t 'I clean' ~ 'he cleans'
 zdj ~ žj: yéžj.u ~ yézdj.i.t 'I travel' ~ 'he travels'

Other alternations, such as tj ~ šč, are treated as irregularities.

³ Throughout this paper, forms are written with 'full' vowels (cf. fn. 1); thus njos.ú 'I carry' is phonemically /njišú/, and govorj.ú 'I talk' is /gavarjú/. We know the values in these cases from related forms, such as njós 'he carried', góvor 'dialect', razgovór 'conversation'. This applies also to the writing of the predesinential of the first conjugation, where we write e.g. čítáy.o.t 'he reads', phonemically /čítáyit/. In some ambiguous cases we have arbitrarily assumed a full vowel, as in /bjirú/, written bjor.ú 'I take'.

⁴ The symbol q in this predesinential indicates that a preceding plain consonant is replaced by its palatalized counterpart, and that k and g are replaced by č and ž respectively: njos.ú ~ njosj.ó.t 'I carry' ~ 'he carries'; pjok.ú ~ pjoč.ó.t 'I bake' ~ 'he bakes'; mog.ú ~ móž.o.t 'I can' ~ 'he can'.

⁵ The P3 predesinential -á- is replaced by -u- when unstressed: govorj.á.t 'they talk', but ljúbj.u.t 'they like'.

There are only four verbs that are completely irregular in the present tense. They are dátj 'to give', yestj 'to eat', xotjéjtj 'to want', and bježátj 'to run':

dám 'I give'	yém 'I eat'	xočú 'I want'	bjegú 'I run'
dáš	yeš	xóčoš	bježíš
dást	yést	xóčot	bježit
dadjím	yedjím	xotjím	bježím
dadjítji	yedjítji	xotjítji	bježitji
dadút	yedját	xotját	bjegút

ENDINGS: INFINITIVE SYSTEM. Verb forms of the infinitive system consist of the INFINITIVE STEM plus FINAL.

	FINAL	
Infinitive:	-tj, (-tjí, -č) ⁶	čítá.tj 'to read'
Past:	-l'	čítá.l
pap	-fš- (after vowel)	čítá.fš.iy
	-š- (after consonant)	njós.š.iy
pg	-f, -fši (after vowel)	čítá.f, čítá.fši
	-ši (after consonant)	njós.ši
ppp	-n	pro.číta.n.(oy)
	-t	u.bjít.t.(oy) 'killed'

The problem of classifying the Russian verb lies in the matching of the present and infinitive stems.⁸ In the statement of forms in the preceding paragraphs we have used the verb čítátj 'to read' as our example. In this verb the present stem is longer by /y/ than the infinitive stem: present stem čítáy-, infinitive stem čítá-. This is only one type of correspondence among many. In order to show the complexity of the problem we give examples of other correspondences in the lists that follow. The first list is arranged by the present stem, the second by the infinitive stem. The list of present stems is so arranged that stems ending in /y/ come first, then stems ending in /n/, finally stems ending in other consonants. We have kept together the examples that have first-conjugation presents and those that have second-conjugation presents (marked with a superior 2).

List 1 (Present Stem First)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. čítáy.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read' | 9. dúy.u ~ dú.tj 'to blow' |
| 2. láy.u ~ láya.tj 'to bark' | 10. rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj 'to sketch' |
| 3. day.ú ~ davá.tj 'to give' | 11. suy.ú ~ sová.tj 'to thrust' |
| 4. imjéy.u ~ imjé.tj 'to possess' | 12. bjiy.ú ~ bjí.tj 'to beat' |
| 5. brjéy.u ~ brjí.tj 'to shave' | 13. gn.ú ~ gnú.tj 'to bend' |
| 6. počýy.u ~ počí.tj 'to die' | 14. stán.u ~ stá.tj 'to become' |
| 7. mójy.u ~ mí.tj 'to wash' | 15. djén.u ~ djé.tj 'to put' |
| 8. poy.ú ~ pjé.tj 'to sing' | 16. stín.u ~ stí.tj 'to get cold' |

⁶ The regular ending of the infinitive is -tj. When it is stressed, the ending appears as -tjí (njós.tjí 'to carry'); a few verbs with a final guttural in the infinitive stem have the ending -č (pjéč 'to bake', stem pjok-).

⁷ The past has different forms for masculine, feminine, and neuter singulars, and for plural (without distinction of gender): čítá.l, fem. čítá.la, neut. čítá.lo, plur. čítá.lji.

⁸ We leave the treatment of other irregularities for another place.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 17. kljan.ú ~ kljástj 'to bow' | 35. id.ú ~ itjí 'to go' |
| 18. mn.ú ~ mjá.tj 'to rumple' | 36. žg.ú ~ žéč 'to burn' |
| 19. na.čn.ú ~ na.čá.tj 'to begin' | 37. strjig.ú ~ strjič 'to shear' |
| 20. žm.ú ~ žá.tj 'to press' | 38. bjorjog.ú ~ bjorjéč 'to guard' |
| 21. iz.im.ú ~ iz.yá.tj 'to confiscate' | 39. pjok.ú ~ pjéč 'to bake' |
| 22. pod.njim.ú ~ pod.njá.tj 'to raise' | 40. volok.ú ~ volóč 'to drag' |
| 23. po.ym.ú ~ po.njá.tj 'to under-stand' | 41. tolk.ú ~ tolóč 'to shove' |
| 24. vozjm.ú ~ vzjá.tj 'to take' | 42. kolj.ú ~ koló.tj 'to stab' |
| 25. sos.ú ~ sosá.tj 'to suck' | 43. tr.ú ~ tjorjé.tj 'to rub' |
| 26. djor.ú ~ drá.tj 'to whip' | 44. pas.ú ~ pas.tjí 'to tend, herd' |
| 27. zov.ú ~ zvá.tj 'to call' | 45. mjot.ú ~ mjostjí 'to sweep' |
| 28. za.šib.ú ~ za.šibjí.tj 'to knock' | 46. živ.u ~ ží.tj 'to live' |
| 29. rjov.u ~ rjovjé.tj 'to roar' | 47. vjoz.ú ~ vjoz.tjí 'to cart' |
| 30. pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj 'to write' | 48. darj.ú ~ darjí.tj ² 'to give' |
| 31. šlj.ú ~ slá.tj 'to send' | 49. gorj.ú ~ gorjé.tj ² 'to burn' |
| 32. grjob.ú ~ grjostjí 'to row' | 50. zvuč.ú ~ zvučá.tj ² 'to sound' |
| 33. klad.ú ~ klástj 'to put' | 51. splj.ú ~ spá.tj ² 'to sleep' |
| 34. yéd.u ~ yéxa.tj 'to ride' | 52. gonj.ú ~ gná.tj ² 'to drive' |

List 2 (Infinitive Stem First)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. čitá.tj ~ čitáy.u 'to read' | 25. bji.tj ~ bjy.ú 'to beat' |
| 2. láya.tj ~ láy.u 'to bark' | 26. brjí.tj ~ brjéy.u 'to shave' |
| 3. stoyá.tj ~ stoy.ú ² 'to stand' | 27. počí.tj ~ počý.u 'to die' |
| 4. gná.tj ~ gonj.ú ² 'to drive' | 28. ží.tj ~ živ.ú 'to live' |
| 5. drá.tj ~ djor.ú 'to whip' | 29. za.šibjí.tj ~ za.šib.ú 'to knock' |
| 6. yéxa.tj ~ yéd.u 'to drive' | 30. mí.tj ~ móy.u 'to wash' |
| 7. žá.tj ~ žm.ú 'to press' | 31. stí.tj ~ stín.u 'to get cold' |
| 8. sosá.tj ~ sos.ú 'to suck' | 32. koló.tj ~ kolj.ú 'to stab' |
| 9. pjišá.tj ~ pjiš.ú 'to write' | 33. dú.tj ~ dúy.u 'to blow' |
| 10. zvá.tj ~ zov.ú 'to call' | 34. gnú.tj ~ gn.ú 'to bend' |
| 11. na.čá.tj ~ na.čn.ú 'to begin' | 35. grjostjí ~ grjob.ú 'to row' |
| 12. slá.tj ~ šlj.ú 'to send' | 36. klástj ~ klad.ú 'to put' |
| 13. spá.tj ~ splj.ú ² 'to sleep' | 37. kljástj ~ kljan.ú 'to bow' |
| 14. stá.tj ~ stán.u 'to become' | 38. pas.tjí ~ pas.ú 'to tend, herd' |
| 15. davá.tj ~ day.ú 'to give' | 39. mjostjí ~ mjot.ú 'to throw' |
| 16. rjisová.tj ~ rjisúy.u 'to sketch' | 40. vjoz.tjí ~ vjoz.ú 'to cart' |
| 17. sová.tj ~ suy.ú 'to suck' | 41. itjí ~ id.ú 'to go' |
| 18. imjé.tj ~ imjéy.u 'to possess' | 42. strjič ~ strjig.ú 'to shear' |
| 19. gorjé.tj ~ gorj.ú ² 'to burn' | 43. bjorjéč ~ bjorjog.ú 'to guard' |
| 20. djé.tj ~ djén.u 'to put' | 44. žéč ~ žg.ú 'to burn' |
| 21. pjé.tj ~ poy.ú 'to sing' | 45. pjéč ~ pjok.ú 'to bake' |
| 22. rjovjé.tj ~ rjov.ú 'to howl' | 46. tolóč ~ tolk.ú 'to shove' |
| 23. tjorjé.tj ~ tr.ú 'to wipe' | 47. volóč ~ volok.ú 'to drag' |
| 24. darjí.tj ~ darj.ú ² 'to give' | |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 48. mǵá.tj ~ mn.ú 'to rumple' | 50. pod.nǵá.tj ~ pod.njim.ú 'to raise' |
| 49. po.nǵá.tj ~ po.ym.ú 'to under-stand' | 51. vzǵá.tj ~ vozjm.ú 'to take' |
| | 52. iz.yá.tj ~ iz.im.ú 'to confiscate' |

The history⁹ of attempts to classify the Russian verb show three main traditions: by the present stem, by the infinitive stem, and by a combination of the two.

The first tradition is seen in the systems of Smotrickij (1619), Lomonosov (1757), Born (1808), and Vater (1809). The first three of these used the second person singular of the present, thereby achieving a division into two conjugations. The statement of the second conjugation was clear, but the first conjugation remained indistinct and included only partial lists of irregularities. Vater used the first person singular as his criterion, with the result that the two conjugations were not clearly distinguished; his classification was by plain and palatalized stem-finals. Schleicher (1852) applied this analysis to the Old Church Slavic verb.

Other writers started from the infinitive stem: Dobrovský (1809) applied this means of classification to the Czech verb, and Puchmayer (1820) adapted it for the Russian verb. Miklošič (1850) classified the Old Church Slavic verb in this tradition, and carried over his classification to the Russian verb (1856).

The third tradition, grouping the forms by means of both stems, starts from Greč (1811), Reiff (1824), Vostokov (1836), and Pavskij (1845). Leskien analyzed the Old Church Slavic verb in this way and achieved a very successful classification, which was applied to the Russian verb by Meyer (1922).

As examples of the results of the earlier period we shall show the classification of Meyer¹⁰ (1923) and of Berneker¹¹ (1897).

Meyer has five classes: I, present formant -e/-o-; II, present formant -ne/-no-, infinitive formant -nu-; III, present formant -je-; IV, present stem in -i-; V, athematic verbs. In terms of the lists given above, Meyer's classification works out as follows:

Class I

A. Single stem

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. consonant final | pas.ú ~ pas.tǵí |
| b. vowel final | živ.ú ~ ží.tj |

B. Infinitive stem in -a-

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. consonant final | sos.ú ~ sosá.tj |
| b. vowel final | zov.ú ~ zvá.tj |
| | gn.ú ~ gnú-tj |

Class II

Class III

1. Primary

A. Single stem

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| a. consonant final | kolj.ú ~ koló.tj |
| b. vowel final | dúy.u ~ dú.tj |

⁹ For the older period I rely on the excellent treatment by W. Guihomard, *Des systèmes traditionnels de classement des verbes russes*, Mélanges publiés en l'honneur de M. Paul Boyer 324-33 (Paris, 1925).

¹⁰ Karl H. Meyer, *Historische Grammatik der russischen Sprache* (Bonn, 1923).

¹¹ Erich Berneker, *Russische Grammatik* (Leipzig, 1897).

- B. Infinitive stem in -a-
 - a. consonant final pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
 - b. vowel final láy.u ~ láya.tj
- 2. Secondary
 - A. Single stem djélay.u ~ djéla.tj
 - B. Infinitive stem in -a-
 - a. consonant final pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
 - b. stem -u-, inf. -ova- rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj
- Class IV
 - A. Single stem darj.ú ~ darjǐ.tj
 - B. Present -i-, inf. -e- or -a-¹² gorj.ú ~ gorjé.tj, stoy.ú ~ stoyá.tj
- Class V
 - dám ~ dátj, yém ~ yéstj

Berneker classifies by the infinitive. He makes his major division into those verbs that have a consonant before the infinitive ending, and those that have a vowel there. In terms of our lists, his system is as follows:

- A. Infinitive in a consonant
 - 1. s, z final: pas.ú ~ pas.tjǐ, vjoz.ú ~ vjoz.tjǐ
 - 2. t, d final: klad.ú ~ klastjǐ, mjot.ú ~ mjostjǐ
 - 3. b final: grjob.ú ~ grjostjǐ
 - 4. k, g final: pjok.ú ~ pjéč, strjig.ú ~ strjǐč
 - 5. r, l final: tr.ú ~ tjozjé.tj, kolj.ú ~ kolótj
 - 6. n, m final: na.čn.ú ~ na.čá.tj, žm.ú ~ žá.tj
- B. Infinitive in a vowel
 - I. in -a-
 - 1. čitáy.u ~ čitá.tj
 - 2. pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj
 - 3. sos.ú ~ sosá.tj
 - 4. splj.ú ~ spá.tj²
 - 5. láy.u ~ láya.tj
 - 6. day.ú ~ davá.tj
 - 7. stán.u ~ stá.tj
 - II. in -e-
 - 1. imjéy.u ~ imjé.tj
 - 2. gorj.ú ~ gorjé.tj²
 - 3. rjov.ú ~ rjovjé.tj
 - 4. poy.ú ~ pjé.tj
 - djén.u ~ djétj
 - III. in -i- after palatalized consonant
 - 1. Primary: bjy.ú ~ bjǐ.tj
 - 2. Derived: darj.ú ~ darjǐ.tj²
 - za.šib.ú ~ za.šibjǐ.tj
 - IV. in -i- after plain consonant (Russian yeri)
 - móy.u ~ mǐ.tj
 - živ.ú ~ žǐ.tj
 - V. in -nu-
 - gn.ú ~ gnú.tj

¹² The infinitive stem here usually ends in -e-, but in -a- after č, š, ž, and y.

VI. in -ova-

rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj

C. Defective and athematic verbs: bíťj, dátj, yéstj, yéxatj

The systems of both Meyer and Berneker are clear and complete. But in spite of this, they obscure an issue that was to be brought to the fore in a new tradition, which has still to win general acceptance.

In 1922 Karcevski published in *Slavia*¹³ a purely descriptive classification of the verb. For the first time the verb was described in terms of productive and non-productive types. He marked out five productive classes as the central types, and relegated the remaining verbs to a subordinate position in subclasses according to their infinitive vowel. This was a great step in the direction of pure description, and gave a clear pattern of the system of the verb. Karcevski's productive classes, in terms of our lists, were the following:

- I. čítáy.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read'
- II. imjéy.u ~ imjé.tj 'to possess'
- III. rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj 'to sketch'
- IV. darj.ú ~ darjí.tj² 'to give'
- V. gn.ú ~ gnú.tj 'to press'

In 1945 Bloomfield restated the classification of the verb in a way that resembles the results of Karcevski but is differently based.¹⁴ Bloomfield sets up four classes of regular verbs, of which the first three belong to the first conjugation and the fourth to the second conjugation. The present stems of all regular verbs end in a consonant; the first two groups end in vowel plus -y-, the third group ends in -n-, the fourth group ends in a palatalized consonant or -š- or -ž-. Class I has a present stem ending in vowel plus -y- and an infinitive stem that lacks the -y-: čítáy.u, čítá.tj 'to read'; imjéy.u, imjé.tj 'to possess'; počíy.u, počí.tj 'to die'; dúy.u, dú.tj 'to blow'. Class II has a present stem ending in -uy- and an infinitive stem ending in -ova-: rjisúy.u, rjisová.tj. Class III has a present stem ending in -n- and an infinitive stem ending in -nu-: gn.ú, gnú.tj 'to bend'. Class IV (all second conjugation) has a present stem ending in a palatalized consonant or -š- or -ž- and an infinitive stem ending in -i-: darj.ú, darjí.tj 'to give'.

The pattern of stress is as follows. Class I verbs have the stress on the same syllable of the stem throughout (accent A); only verbs in stressed -á- have the stress drawn back in the ppp: čítá.tj, čítáy.u, pro.čítan. Class II verbs have accent A, and verbs with stress -ová- in the infinitive stem have the stress -úy- in the present stem and draw back the stress in the ppp: rjisová.tj 'to sketch', rjisúy.u, rjisóvan. Class III verbs whose infinitive stem has stressed -nú- have accent on the present endings (accent B), and draw back the stress in the ppp:

¹³ Serge Karcevski, *Études sur le système verbal du russe contemporain*, *Slavia* 1.242-68 (Prague, 1922). Excellent adaptations of Karcevski's classification appear in Vinogradoff, *Sovremennyy russkij yazyk* 2.351-9 (Moskva, 1938), and Whitfield, *A Russian reference grammar* (Cambridge, 1944).

¹⁴ Published in two books prepared under the auspices of the U. S. Armed Forces Institute: *Dictionary of spoken Russian* 230-3 (War Department TM 30-944, 1945); *Spoken Russian* 2.629-36 (War Department EM 525, 1945).

vjornú.tj 'to return', vjorn.ú, vjornj.ó.t, ppp po.vjórnut.oy. A few verbs of this class have accent C: tjanú.tj 'to pull', tjan.ú, tjánj.o.t. Class IV verbs whose infinitive stem has stressed -í- have accent B or accent C.

Because of the nature of the books in which Bloomfield published this classification, it was unnecessary to treat there the subclasses within his major divisions—the 'linguistic dust', as Vinogradoff describes them. It is our purpose here to show in full the classification of Russian verbs, both regular and irregular. In the following table, Bloomfield's four productive classes (numbered I to IV) are followed by a separate listing of the four large irregular classes (lettered A to D), all but one with subdivisions. Each class and subclass is characterized by the alternation between the present stem and the infinitive stem of the verbs that are grouped in it; the following special symbols are used to denote these alternations: V = vowel, C = plain consonant, Cj = palatalized consonant, CJ = consonant replaced in alternation as shown in fn. 2. Finally, each class and subclass is illustrated by one verb; a number in parentheses indicates the total number of verbs that belong to each of the irregular subclasses.

REGULAR VERBS:

Class I. Vy ~ V: čítáy.u ~ čítá.tj 'to read'

Class II. uy ~ ova: rjisúy.u ~ rjisová.tj 'to sketch'

Class III. n ~ nu: gn.ú ~ gnú.tj 'to bend'

Class IV. Cj ~ Cji: darj.ú ~ darjí.tj 'to give'

IRREGULAR VERBS:

Class A. Present stem in -y-, infinitive stem in vowel

1. V₁y ~ V₂: móy.u ~ mí.tj 'to wash' (7)

2. ay ~ ava: day.ú ~ davá.tj 'to give' (3)

3. Cjy ~ Cji: bjy.ú ~ bjí.tj 'to beat' (5)

4. y ~ ya: láy.u ~ láya.tj 'to bark' (17)

5. uy ~ ová: suy.ú ~ sová.tj 'to thrust' (7)

5a. uy ~ a: živopjisúy.u ~ živopjisá.tj 'to paint' (2)

Class B. Present stem in consonant other than -y-, infinitive stem in vowel

1. C ~ CV: sos.ú ~ sosá.tj 'to suck' (15)

2. CJ ~ CV: pjiš.ú ~ pjišá.tj 'to write' (73)

3. Cn/m ~ Ca: načn.ú ~ načá.tj 'to begin' (9)

4. Vn ~ V: stán.u ~ stá.tj 'to become' (5)

Class C. Present stem in consonant other than -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant

C ~ C: pas.ú ~ pas.tjí 'to tend, herd' (53)

Class D. Present stem in palatalized consonant or š or ž, infinitive stem in vowel other than -i- (all 2d conjugation)

1. Cj ~ Cje: gorj.ú ~ gorjé.tj 'to burn' (40)

2. Cj ~ Cja: stoy.ú ~ stoyá.tj 'to stand' (30)

3. CJ ~ Ca: splj.ú ~ spá.tj 'to sleep' (2)

To this listing we may add Class E, consisting of the four anomalous verbs dátj, yéstj, xotétj, and bježátj mentioned earlier in the paper.

We append here a complete list of Russian irregular verbs, based on Ušakov, *Tolkovyj slovar' russkogo yazyka I-IV* (Moskva, 1934-40).¹⁵

CLASS A. PRESENT STEM IN -y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL

Class A1. Present stem in vowel plus -y-, infinitive stem in different vowel;
accent A except as noted

móy.u mǐ.tj wash	vóy.u ví.tj howl
króy.u krí.tj cover	brjéy.u brjí.tj shave
nóy.u ní.tj whine	poy.ú pjé.tj B sing
róy.u rí.tj dig	

Class A2. Present stem in -ay-, infinitive stem in -ava-; accent B in present

day.ú davá.tj give
ustay.ú ustavá.tj tire
uznay.ú uznává.tj recognize

Class A3. Present stem in consonant plus -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant plus -i-;
accent B in present

bjy.ú bjí.tj beat	šy.ú ší.tj sew
lly.ú ljí.tj pour	vjy.ú vjí.tj howl
pjy.ú pjí.tj drink	

Class A4. Present stem in -y-, infinitive stem in -ya-; accent A except as noted

báy.u báya.tj talk	bljéy.ú bljéyá.tj A/B bleat
káy.u.s káya.t.ca repent	smjey.ú.s smjeyá.t.ca B laugh
láy.u láya.tj bark	rjéy.u rjéya.tj float, soar
máy.u.s máya.t.ca pine	sjéy.u sjéya.tj sow
čáy.u čáya.tj expect, hope for	zatjéy.u zatjéya.tj undertake
táy.u táya.tj thaw	vjéy.u vjéya.tj blow softly
xáy.u xáya.tj blame, find fault	čúy.u čúya.tj smell, scent
nadjéy.u.s nadjéya.t.ca hope	vopjij.ú vopjijá.tj B bewail (obs.)
ljeljéy.u ljeljéya.tj foster, nurse	

Class A5. Present stem in -uy-, infinitive stem in -ova-;
accent B in present, otherwise identical with Class II regular

bljuy.ú bljová.tj vomit	snuy.ú snová.tj scurry, poke about
kuy.ú ková.tj forge	suy.ú sová.tj push in
kljuy.ú kljová.tj peck	žuy.ú žová.tj chew
pljuy.ú pljová.tj spit	

Class A5a. Present stem in -uy-, infinitive stem in -a-; accent A in present

živopjísúy.u živopjísá.tj paint
prjítjázúy.u prjítjázá.tj lay claim to

CLASS B. PRESENT STEM IN CONSONANT OTHER THAN -y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL

Class B1. Present stem in plain consonant; accent B in present except as noted

lg.ú lgá.tj lie	žážd.u žážda.tj A hunger, thirst
rv.ú rvá.tj tear, vomit	žd.ú ždá.tj wait
rž.ú ržá.tj neigh	žr.ú žrá.tj eat
sos.ú sosá.tj suck	bjor.ú brá.tj take ¹⁶
ston.ú stoná.tj C groan	djor.ú drá.tj travel ¹⁶
tk.ú tká.tj weave	zov.ú zvá.tj call ¹⁶

¹⁵ Some verbs in this list are shown in the reflexive form. The reflexive suffix, added to certain verbs in various meanings, has the following shapes: -s after vowels (uč.ú.s 'I study', uč.í.tj.s 'you study'), -sa after consonants other than t or tj (úč.í.m.sa 'we study'), -ca after t and tj, the latter being replaced before this suffix by t (úč.í.t.ca 'he studies', uč.í.t.ca 'to study'). Some verbs occur only in the reflexive form, e.g. ošibáy.u.s 'I am mistaken'.

¹⁶ The present stem has an inserted vowel.

rjov.ú rjovjé.tj roar¹⁷zašib.ú zašibjǐ.tj C knock¹⁷zjižd.u.s zjiždji.t.ca A repose on¹⁷

Class B2. Present stem in consonant plus J (see fn. 2), infinitive stem in consonant plus -a-; accent C in present when last vowel of infinitive is stressed

koljéblj.u koljebá.tj A move

zǐblj.u [zǐbá.tj/zǐbjǐ.tj](inf. not used) rock

glož.ú glodá.tj gnaw

skač.ú skaká.tj jump

pláč.u pláka.tj weep

míč.u mǐka.tj hackle

kljǐč.u kljǐka.tj call

plješč.ú pljeská.tj splatter

išč.ú iská.tj search

pološč.ú poloská.tj gargle

dremlj.ú drjemá.tj doze

trjěplj.ú trjepá.tj pull about, peel

ščeplj.ú ščepá.tj splinter

ščipltj.ú ščipá.tj pinch

síplj.u sípa.tj scatter

opoyaš.ú opoyasá.tj girdle

pljaš.ú pljasá.tj dance

češ.ú česá.tj comb

tješ.ú tjesá.tj cut, hew

pjiš.ú pjísá.tj write

prjáč.u prjáta.tj hide

ščebječ.ú ščebjetá.tj warble

ščečoč.ú ščekotá.tj tickle

bormoč.ú bormotá.tj mutter

xlopoč.ú xlopotá.tj bustle about

klokoč.ú klokotá.tj gurgle

ljepječ.ú ljepjetá.tj stammer

strjekoč.ú strjekotá.tj chirp

rokoč.ú rokotá.tj roll, roar

groxoč.ú groxotá.tj crash, rumble

xoxoč.ú xoxotá.tj guffaw

šepč.ú šeptá.tj whisper

topč.ú toptá.tj tread upon

kvoxč.ú kvotá.tj cluck

trjepješč.ú trjepjetá.tj palpitate, throb

kljevješč.ú kljevjetá.tj slander

skrježešč.ú skrježetá.tj grind the teeth

ropšč.ú roptá.tj grumble

xlješč.ú xljestá.tj whip

svjišč.ú svjistá.tj whistle

xlišč.ú xlistá.tj whip

brješ.ú brjexá.tj bark

páš.u páxa.tj plow

objaž.ú objazá.tj be required

skaž.ú skazá.tj say

máž.u máza.tj smear

vjáž.u vjaza.tj bind

rjěž.u rjeza.tj cut

ljíž.u ljíza.tj lick

njíž.u njíza.tj string

orj.ú orá.tj plow

šlj.ú slá.tj B send

stjelj.ú stlá.tj spread¹⁶

The following verbs of Class B2 are also inflected according to Class I of the regular verbs.

The order of the present stems is that of Ušakov.

dvjǐgay.u/dvjǐž.u dvjǐga.tj move

brǐžj.u/brǐzgay.u brǐzga.tj sprinkle

murlíč.u/murlíkay.u murlíka.tj purr

xníč.u/xníkay.u xníka.tj whimper

álč.u A / alkáy.u alká.tj hunger, desire

tíč.u/tíkay.u tíka.tj poke, thrust

rískay.u/ríšč.u ríska.tj run about

xromáy.u/xrómlj.u A xromá.tj limp

plješč.ú/pljeskáy.u pljeská.tj splatter

káplj.u/kápay.u kápa.tj trickle, drip

krápay.u/kráplj.ú A and C krápa.tj drip, spot

kljeplj.ú/kljepáy.u kljepá.tj slander; rivet

mječ.ú/mjetáy.u mjetá.tj throw; baste

kudáxč.u/kudáxtay.u kudáxta.tj cluck

kolixáy.u/kolíš.u kolíxa.tj sway

maxáy.u/maš.ú maxá.tj brandish

stradáy.u/strážd.u stradá.tj suffer

Class B3. Present stem in consonant plus -m- or -n-, infinitive stem in consonant plus a

načn.ú načá.tj begin

žn.ú žá.tj reap

žm.ú žá.tj press

mn.ú mjá.tj rumple

raspn.ú raspjá.tj crucify

naym.ú nanjá.tj hire

izim.ú izyá.tj confiscate

obnjim.ú obnjá.tj embrace

vozjm.ú vzjá.tj take

Class B4. Present stem in vowel plus -n-, infinitive stem in vowel without -n-

stán.u stá.tj become, begin

zastřán.u zastřjá.tj stick

djén.u djé.tj put

stín.u stí.tj get cold

klján.u kljástj curse¹⁷

¹⁷ The infinitive is irregular.

CLASS C. PRESENT STEM IN CONSONANT OTHER THAN -y-, INFINITIVE STEM IN SAME CONSONANT¹⁸

b ~ s
grjob.ú grjos.tjí BB row
skrjob.ú skrjos.tjí BB scrape
d ~ s
klad.ú klás.tj BA put
krad.ú krás.tj BA steal
pad.ú pás.tj BA fall
prjad.ú prjás.tj BC spin
brjod.ú brjos.tjí BB wander
vjod.ú vjos.tjí BB conduct
bljud.ú bljus.tjí BB observe
sjád.u sjés.tj AA sit down¹⁷
id.ú itjí BB go¹⁷ (suppl. past stem šd-)
yé.d.u yé.xa.tj AA ride¹⁷
g ~ č
bjorjog.ú bjorjéč BB take care of
prjenjebrijog.ú -brjéč BB neglect
stjorjog.ú stjorjéč BB guard
zaprijog.ú zaprijéč BB harness
strjig.ú strjíc BA shear
ljág.u ljéč AB lie down
mog.ú móč CB be able -
žg.ú žéč BB burn¹⁸
k ~ č
vljok.ú vljéč BB involve, attract
pjok.ú pjéč BB bake
izrjok.ú izrjéč BA BB speak
tjok.ú tjéč BB flow
sjek.ú sjéč BA chop
volok.ú volóč BB drag
tolk.ú tolóč BB shove (with inserted vowel)
s ~ s

njos.ú njos.tjí BB carry
pas.ú pas.tjí BB tend, herd
trjos.ú trjos.tjí } BB shake, jolt
trjas.ú trjas.tjí }
t ~ s
gnjot.ú gnjos.tjí BB press
mjot.ú mjos.tjí BB sweep
izobrijot.ú izobrijos.tjí BB invent
pljot.ú pljos.tjí BB plait
cvjot.ú cvjos.tjí BB bloom
pročt.ú pročéstj BB read (through)¹⁷
rost.ú rastjí BB grow¹⁷

z ~ z
ljéz.u ljéz.tj AA climb
griz.ú gríz.tj BA gnaw
polz.ú polz.tjí BB crawl
vjoz.ú vjoz.tjí BB convey, cart
v ~ o
pliv.ú plí.tj BC swim
sliv.ú slí.tj BC be reputed
živ.ú ží.tj BC live
Vlj, Vrij ~ olo, oro
kolj.ú koló.tj CA stab
polj.ú poló.tj CA weed
porj.ú poró.tj CA rip, flog
borj.ú.s boró.t.ca CA struggle
mjelj.ú moló.tj CA grind
r ~ jorje (past reg. with inserted vowel)
tr.ú tiorjé.tj BA (past tjór) rub
umr.ú umjorjé.tj BC (past úmior, umjorlá,
úmiorlo) die
pr.ú piorjé.tj BA (past pjór) trudge

CLASS D. PRESENT STEM IN PALATALIZED CONSONANT OR Š OR Ž, INFINITIVE STEM IN VOWEL OTHER THAN -i-; ALL 2D CONJUGATION
(VERBS ARE CITED IN THE INFINITIVE ONLY.)

Class D1. Present stem in palatalized consonant other than č, šč, žj, y, infinitive stem in same consonant plus -e-; accent B in present except as noted

bdjé.tj be wakeful (S1 lacking)
bljestjé.tj glitter
boljé.tj hurt (S3, P3 only)
vjeljé.tj order
vjertjé.tj B and C turn
vjídje.tj A see
vjisjé.tj hang
galdjé.tj make a racket (S1 lacking)
gljadjé.tj look at
gorjé.tj burn

gudjé.tj drone
grjemjé.tj thunder
zavjísje.tj A depend
zvjenjé.tj jingle
zrjé.tj see (cf. class I zrijé.u zrijé.tj ripen)
zudjé.tj itch
kipjé.tj cook
kišé.tj teem
koptjé.tj work hard (cf. class I koptjéy.u
koptjé.tj smoke)

¹⁸ The replacement of the stem-final consonant before the phoneme tj of the infinitive ending is indicated before each subgroup of verbs within this class. The symbols BB, BA, BC, AA, etc. refer to the accent of the present and of the past respectively.

korpjé.tj work hard
 krjajtjé.tj groan
 ljetjé.tj fly
 objídjé.tj A insult
 píxtjé.tj pant, puff
 svjorbjé.tj itch
 sjídjé.tj sit
 skorbjé.tj grieve
 skrípjé.tj creak
 smjerdjé.tj stink

smotríjé.tj C look at
 sopjé.tj wheeze
 tarajtjé.tj creak
 tjerpjé.tj C suffer
 xrapjé.tj snore
 xrípjé.tj be hoarse
 xrustjé.tj crunch
 šípjé.tj hiss
 šumjé.tj be noisy

Class D2. Present stem in -č-, -šč-, žj-, or -y-, infinitive stem in same consonant plus -a-; accent B in present except as noted

brjenč.á.tj jingle
 brjužj.á.tj grumble
 burč.á.tj grumble
 djorž.á.tj C hold
 drjebježj.á.tj jar
 drož.á.tj tremble
 diš.á.tj C breathe
 krjič.á.tj cry out
 ljož.á.tj lie
 molč.á.tj be silent
 mč.á.tj whirl along
 mič.á.tj moo, low
 pjišč.á.tj squeak, scream
 rič.á.tj growl, snarl

slíš.á.tj A hear
 stoy.á.tj stand
 stuč.á.tj knock
 šurš.á.tj rustle
 torč.á.tj protrude
 trješč.á.tj crackle
 urč.á.tj rumble
 vjerježj.á.tj } whimper, squeal
 vjerješč.á.tj }
 vorč.á.tj grumble
 zvuč.á.tj sound
 žužj.á.tj hum, buzz
 žurč.á.tj ripple, purl

Class D3. Present stem in palatalized consonant, infinitive stem in plain consonant plus -a-

splj.ú spá.tj BC sleep
 gonj.ú gná.tj CC drive¹⁶

CLASS E. ANOMALOUS VERBS

dá.tj give xotjé.tj want
 bježá.tj run yés.tj eat